

Dale Cheney**10/021,267****IN THE CLAIMS:**

The status and content of each claim follows.

1-26. (canceled).

27. (previously presented) A vehicle storage box, comprising:

a) a base structure;

b) a lid, pivotally connected to the base structure, shaped to enclose the base structure;

and

c) a lid coupler comprising a first and second adjustable lid actuator and a first and second adjustable lid latch, connected to the lid and the base structure, shaped to releasably couple the lid to the base structure, the lid coupler having a first coupling position occurring when the lid is in an opened position;

d) the lid actuator including a hooking cam to engage the lid latch while the lid is in an opened position such that, as the lid actuator is rotated, the lid latch tracks along the hooking cam of the lid actuator while the lid is pulled down; and

e) the first and second lid actuators being coupled together by a cable and pulley system wherein a pulley is coupled to each of the lid actuators and connected by a cable for simultaneous operation of the first and second lid actuators.

28. (previously presented) The storage box of claim 27, wherein the base structure is configured to attach to a vehicle, and has a length sized to fit between side walls of a truck bed.

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29. (previously presented) The storage box of claim 27, wherein the lid actuator rotates substantially 180 degrees such that the lid latch is forced through cam action motion.

30. (previously presented) The storage box of claim 27, wherein the hooking cam comprises a hook, a cam, and a notch, wherein the notch is shaped and positioned to receive and retain the lid actuator when the lid is in a closed and secured position.

31-33. (canceled).

34. (previously presented) The vehicle storage box of claim 27, wherein the first and second lid latches are substantially L-shaped members having a latching point for engaging respectively the first and second lid actuators.

35. (previously presented) A storage box for use with vehicles comprising:

- a) a base structure;
- b) a lid, pivotally connected to the base structure, shaped to enclose a portion of the base structure; and
- c) lid coupling means, connected to the lid and the base structure, for releasably coupling the lid to the base structure, and having a first coupling position occurring when the lid is in an opened position; and

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d) the lid coupling means including a lid latch coupled to the lid, and means, rotatably coupled to the base structure, for engaging and latching the lid latch while in the first coupling position; and

e) the means for engaging and latching the lid latch including a hooking cam for facilitating closing and securing the lid to the base structure, the hooking cam on a lid actuator engages the lid latch while the lid is in an opened position such that, as the lid actuator is rotated, the lid latch tracks along the hooking cam of the lid actuator wherein the lid is pulled down, the lid being securely closed upon complete travel of the lid latch along the hooking cam; wherein the lid actuator rotates substantially 180 degrees along the hooking cam such that the lid latch is forced through cam action motion.

36. (previously presented) The storage box of claim 35, wherein the base structure is configured to attach to a vehicle, and has a length sized to fit between side walls of a truck bed.

37. (canceled).

38. (previously presented) The storage box of claim 35, wherein the hooking cam comprises a hook, a cam, and a notch, wherein the notch is shaped and positioned to receive and retain the lid actuator when the lid is in a closed and secured position.

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39. (previously presented) The storage box of claim 35, wherein the lid coupling means comprises a first and second adjustable lid actuator and a first and second adjustable lid latch.

40. (previously presented) The storage box of claim 39, wherein the first and second lid actuators are coupled together by a lid actuator connector for simultaneous operation of the first and second lid actuators.

41. (previously presented) The storage box of claim 40, wherein the lid actuator connector comprises a cable and pulley system wherein a pulley is coupled to each of the lid actuators and connected by a cable.

42. (previously presented) The storage box of claim 39, wherein the first and second lid latches are substantially L-shaped members having a latching point for engaging respectively the first and second lid actuators.

43. (previously presented) A vehicle storage box, comprising:

- a) a base structure;
- b) a lid, pivotally connected to the base structure, shaped to enclose the base structure; and
- c) a lid coupler, connected to the lid and the base structure, shaped to releasably couple the lid to the base structure, the lid coupler having a first coupling position occurring when the

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lid is in an opened position, the lid coupler including an adjustable lid actuator and an adjustable lid latch, each rotatable in a common plane substantially parallel to a front of the base structure.

44. (previously presented) The storage box of claim 43, wherein the base structure is configured to attach to a vehicle, and has a length sized to fit between side walls of a truck bed.

45. (previously presented) The storage box of claim 43, wherein

- a) the lid coupler includes a lid latch and a lid actuator; and
- b) the lid actuator including a hooking cam to engage the lid latch while the lid is in an opened position such that, as the lid actuator is rotated, the lid latch tracks along the hooking cam of the lid actuator while the lid is pulled down.

46. (previously presented) The storage box of claim 45, wherein the lid actuator rotates substantially 180 degrees such that the lid latch is forced through cam action motion.

47. (previously presented) The storage box of claim 43, wherein

- a) the lid coupler includes: 1) a lid latch coupled to the lid, and 2) a lid actuator, rotatably coupled to the base structure, to engage and latch the lid latch while in the first coupling position; and
- b) the lid actuator including a hooking cam to facilitate closing and securing the lid to the base structure, the hooking cam on the lid actuator engaging the lid latch while the lid is in an opened position such that, as the lid actuator is rotated, the lid latch tracks

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along the hooking cam of the lid actuator wherein the lid is pulled down, the lid being securely closed upon complete travel of the lid latch along the hooking cam, the lid actuator rotating substantially 180 degrees such that the lid latch is forced through cam action motion.

48. (previously presented) The storage box of claim 47, wherein the hooking cam comprises a hook, a cam, and a notch, wherein the notch is shaped and positioned to receive and retain the lid actuator when the lid is in a closed and secured position.

49. (previously presented) The vehicle storage box of claim 43, wherein the lid coupler comprises a first and second adjustable lid actuator and a first and second adjustable lid latch.

50. (previously presented) The vehicle storage box of claim 49, wherein the first and second lid actuators are coupled together by a lid actuator connector for simultaneous operation of the first and second lid actuators.

51. (previously presented) The vehicle storage box of claim 50, wherein the lid actuator connector comprises a cable and pulley system wherein a pulley is coupled to each of the lid actuators and connected by a cable.

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52. (previously presented) The vehicle storage box of claim 50, wherein the first and second lid latches are substantially L-shaped members having a latching point for engaging respectively the first and second lid actuators.

53. (currently amended) A vehicle storage box, comprising:

a base structure;

a lid, pivotally connected to the base structure, ~~shaped to enclose the base structure~~; and

a lid coupler, ~~connected to the lid and the base structure, shaped~~ configured to releasably couple the lid to the base structure, the lid coupler having a first coupling position in which the lid coupler engages the lid occurring when the lid is in an opened position;

~~the lid coupler comprising a first and second adjustable lid actuator and a first and second adjustable lid latch.~~